Foreign visit of Director of ICHR

*330. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of times the Director of the Indian Council of Historical Research had gone abroad since he joined the Council in 1985;

(b) what is the amount of Indian currency and foreign exchange spent on his visits;

(c) whether necessary Government permission was accorded in each case; and

(d) what is the number of times the previous Director of the Council went abroad during his tenure of ten years and what are the reasons for the difference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (d) According to the information furnished by the Indian Council of Historical Research, the present Director went abroad four times since his appointment in April, 1985. An expenditure of about Rs. 55,000 in Indian rupees and $2,550 in foreign exchange was incurred towards cost of air tickets and payment of daily allowance respectively on these foreign visits which were approved by the Chairman, ICHR. The previous Director went abroad once during the last ten years of his tenure.

I.T.I. agreement with face standard of Italy

*331. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Telephone Industries had entered into agreement in 1983 with FACE Standard of Italy for a project worth Rs. 18 crores to produce a million telephone instruments every year, but not a single telephone has been produced as yet;

(b) the losses suffered due to the huge over-runs in cost and time, and the total estimated extent of delay likely to be suffered by the project and by when the modern telephone instruments are likely to be available to the public; and

(c) whether accountability and responsibility has been fixed on some definite persons/authority if not, the reasons therefor; and if so, on whom the accountability for the huge over-runs has been fixed?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Indian Telephone Industries (I.T.I.) Limited had entered into an agreement in 1983 with FACE Standard of Italy to produce 10 lakh rotary dial telephone instruments and 5 lakh additional critical components a year at a capital cost of Rs. 18.33 crores. As part of the Project, some telephone kits were received. Some of these were assembled, but did not meet the specifications.

As a result, the agreement has been renegotiated. It has now been decided to drop the production of the rotary dial type of telephone instruments and in its place to produce electronic telephone instruments. The production capacity will remain the same.

The collaborator has agreed to supply the necessary machinery etc. at no extra cost. They have also agreed to supply the necessary upgraded components etc. to enable the kits already supplied, to meet the specifications.

(b) and (c) No cost over-runs are anticipated in respect of the project.

Progress of Hindi

*332. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by his Ministry during the year 1986-87 for the